

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR, MEX

SUBJECT: GOMS NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM

REF: MEXICO 10046

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S PRESS
RELEASE NOVEMBER 14, 1975 CONCERNING JOINT U.S.-MEXICAN
NARCOTICS CONTROL MEASURES. QUOTE: YESTERDAY, NOVEMBER
13, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MEXICO, PEDRO OJEDA PAULLADA,
AFTER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, DESCRIBED TO THE
PRESS IN MEXICO CITY HIS GOVERNMENT'S STRENGTHENED AND
EXPANDED CAMPAIGN TO ERADICATE OPIUM POPPY GROWTH AND TO
CONTROL HEROIN TRAFFIC. THE MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL
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ANNOUNCED THAT AN ERADICATION CAMPAIGN WILL BEGIN

NOVEMBER 15, EMPLOYING GREATLY EXPANDED MATERIEL AND MANPOWER RESOURCES THAT ARE EXPECTED TO SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE THE HEROIN TRAFFIC TO THE UNITED STATES.

SECRETARY KISSINGER WISHES TO EMPHASIZE THE CONCERN THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PLACES ON THE DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM AND THE NEED TO INCREASE EFFORTS TO CONTROL ILLICIT DRUGS AT HOME AND ABROAD. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO RESOLVE THIS MOST SERIOUS AND TRAGIC PROBLEM THAT BURDENS OUR NATION WITH RUINED LIVES AND RESULTS IN VIOLENT CRIMES AGAINST OUR CITIZENS, AND COSTS US UP TO \$17 BILLION A YEAR.

ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, THE SECRETARY EXPRESSES HIS APPRECIATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO FOR ITS EFFORTS TO CURB ILLICIT DRUGS AND CONFIRMS THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO WORK WITH MEXICO AND OUR OTHER FRIENDS ABROAD TO ACHIEVE OUR COMMON GOALS OF REDUCING DRUG ABUSE AND CONTROLLING THE TRAFFIC IN ILLICIT NARCOTICS. QUOTE

2) FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PRESS RELEASE ON THE SAME SUBJECT: QUOTE: ATTORNEY GENERAL EDWARD H. LEVI ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT

TODAY CONCERNING JOINT U.S.-MEXICAN NARCOTICS CONTROL MEASURES. DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, MEXICO HAS BECOME THE MAJOR SOURCE COUNTRY FOR HEROIN AVAILABLE ON U.S. STREETS. ADDITIONALLY, IT IS AN IMPORTANT SOURCE FOR MARIHUANA AND A TRANSIT COUNTRY FOR ALL MANNER OF ILLICIT DRUGS, INCLUDING COCAINE. THIS IS A SITUATION OF GRAVE CONCERN TO BOTH PRESIDENTS ECHEVERRIA AND FORD, AND THEY HAVE JOINTLY PLEDGED THE UTMOST COOPERATION IN EFFORTS TO STEM THE FLOW OF DRUGS ACROSS OUR COMMON BORDER.

YESTERDAY, MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL PEDRO OJEDA PAULLADA ANNOUNCED PLANS TO SHARPLY INCREASE THE OPIUM POPPY AND MARIHUANA ERADICATION CAMPAIGN TO BE CONDUCTED IN MEXICO THIS YEAR. SPECIFICALLY, HE ANNOUNCED PLANS TO LENGTHEN THE DURATION OF THE CAMPAIGN, TO BROADEN IT GEOGRAPHICALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO INCLUDE ALL AREAS OF KNOWN POPPY GROWTH, AND TO

UTILIZE MORE ADVANCED TECHNIQUES OF PLANT DESTRUCTION.

I WAS HEARTENED TO HEAR OF ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA'S ANNOUNCEMENT AND BELIEVE THAT IT CLEARLY DEPICTS THE RESOLVE OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT TO DO ITS VERY BEST TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM OF CRITICAL CONCERN

TO BOTH OF OUR GOVERNMENTS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE IN THE UNITED STATES WILL DO ALL WE CAN TO SUPPORT THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IN ITS EFFORTS, AND I PERSONALLY PLEDGE TO INTENSIFY DOMESTIC LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS AIMED AT DISRUPTING NARCOTICS TRAFFIC FROM MEXICO.

THE IMPORTANCE THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION ATTACHES TO EFFORTS TO CONTROL DRUG ABUSE, IN THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS OVERSEAS, CANNOT BE OVEREMPHASIZED.

WE ARE DETERMINED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE, WORKING AT HOME AND WITH OUR FRIENDS ABROAD, TO THWART THE DRUG

TRAFFICKERS WHOSE TRADE RESULTS IN SO MUCH PERSONAL MISERY AND SOCIAL COST. UNQUOTE.

3. FOLLOWING ARE Q. AND A. GUIDANCE USED IN NOV. 14, DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING ON RELATED SUBJECT. QUOTE: SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON MEXICAN CAMPAIGN USING HERBICIDES TO DESTROY OPIUM POPPIES. Q: IS THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO MOUNT A CAMPAIGN AGAINST OPIUM A RESULT OF U.S. GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES? A: NO. THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAS CONDUCTED DESTRUCTION PROGRAMS AGAINST OPIUM AND MARIJUANA FOR DECADES. DESPITE THESE PROGRAMS, NARCOTICS PRODUCTION HAS NOT DIMINISHED. AN AWARENESS OF THE INCREASING THREAT TO MEXICO'S OWN SOCIETY HAS PROMPTED THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT TO INTENSIFY ITS EFFORTS. Q: IT IS SAID THAT THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO USE DEFOLIANTS TO DESTROY OPIUM POPPY AND MARIJUANA GROWTH. IS THIS TRUE AND IF SO, WAS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONSULTED BEFORE THIS DECISION WAS MADE? A: WE UNDERSTAND THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IS EXPERIMENTING WITH HERBICIDES WHICH ARE COMMONLY KNOWN AND COMMERICALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AVAILABLE IN MEXICO- IN FACT THEY ARE ALREADY USED EXTENSIVELY ON IMPORTANT CROPS TO CONTROL WEEDS- TO DETERMINE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AGAINST THESE NARCOTIC SUBSTANCES AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAS TRADITIONALLY USED ARMY TROOPS WHO USE MANUAL METHODS TO DESTROY THESE CROPS. THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENTED WITH FLAME THROWERS AND HERBICIDES IN THE 1960'S AGAINST THESE SUBSTANCES, WAS DISCOURAGED, AND ABANDONED THEM. WE KNOW THAT THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAM ARE INNOVATIVE AND WILLING TO TRY BETTER METHODS, AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS RECEPTIVE TO REQUESTS FOR TECHNICAL INFORMATION, BUT THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT MAKES DECISIONS ENTIRELY ON ITS OWN. Q:

WHAT ARE THE APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS OF THE PROBLEM AND THE PROGRAM IN MEXICO? WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE ILLEGAL AMERICAN SUPPLY OF HEROIN AND MARIJUANA ORIGINATES IN MEXICO? AT BEST, WHAT PORTION OF THIS CROP COULD BE ELIMINATED BY THE ANNOUNCED PROGRAM? A: NO ONE KNOWS WHAT THE TOTAL SUPPLY OF HEROIN IN THE U.S. IS, BUT THE ADMITTEDLY UNCERTAIN INDICATORS ARE THAT 70-75 OF THE TOTAL IS THE MEXICAN-PROCESSED VARIETY. SINCE MARIJUANA FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES IS DIFFICULT TO DISTINGUISH, WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MUCH COMES FROM MEXICO, EXCEPT THAT, JUDGING FROM U.S. CUSTOMS SEIZURES ALONG THE BORDER, THE AMOUNT IS SUBSTANTIAL. WE EXPECT THAT WITH INTENSE EFFORT THE MEXICAN PROGRAM CAN CHOK OFF A LARGE

PORTION OF THE HEROIN AND OTHER DRUGS COMING INTO THE U.S. Q: WHAT SUPPORT HAS THE USG PROVIDED FOR CURBING HEROIN COMING FROM MEXICO? A: IN ITS SUPPORT OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT'S OPIUM POPPY DESTRUCTION PROGRAM AND PROGRAM TO UNCOVER AND NEUTRALIZE TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS, THE USG HAS GRANTED EQUIPMENT COSTING APPROXIMATELY 20 MILLION IN THE LAST TWO YEARS. OVER \$5 MILLION IS BUDGETED FOR FY 1976. THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION EXCHANGES INFORMATION WITH MEXICAN LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES TO NEUTRALIZE TRAFFICKERS DEALING IN HEROIN COMING FROM MEXICO OR COCAINE TRANSITING THAT COUNTRY FROM SOUTH AMERICA. Q: IF U.S. AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEXICAN AUTHORITIES ARE AWARE OF MEXICAN OPIUM PRODUCTION CHARACTERISTICS, WHY WERE OFFICIALS SHOCKED BY THE FACT THAT POPPIES ARE GROWING RIGHT NOW IN THE AREAS OF MEXICO VISITED BY CONGRESSMAN RANGEL? A: WE BELIEVE THAT POPPY IS BEING PLANTED EARLIER AND ON STEEPER SLOPES THAN HAS BEEN CUSTOMARY IN THE PAST IS A REACTION BY THE TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS TO THE PRESSURE OF THE ERADICATION CAMPAIGN LAST SPRING, WHICH COMMENCED IN JANUARY. EVIDENTLY THEY HOPE TO HARVEST BEFORE THE

POPPY IS DESTROYED BY ADVANCING THE GROWING SEASON. HOWEVER, THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO ADVANCED THE DESTRUCTION CAMPAIGN, WHICH HAS ALREADY COMMENCED. THE

MOVE BY CULTIVATORS TO HIGHER SLOPES IS ANOTHER REACTION TO THE PRESSURE OF CROP DESTRUCTION. WE ARE ENCOURAGED THAT THIS IS AN INDICATION OF THE SUCCESS OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT'S NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION PROGRAM. UNQUOTE.

4. FYI - THE ONLY QUESTION RAISED FOLLOWING THE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT CONCERNED U.S. REPRESENTATIONS

TO THE GOM ON U.S. CITIZENS IN MEXICAN JAILS. THE
RESPONSE MENTIONED AMBASSADOR JOVA'S DISCUSSIONS WITH
ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA ON NOVEMBER 4, CONCERNING THIS
SUBJECT. ALSO, IT WAS MENTIONED THAT CONTINUING
DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN EMBASSY AND GOM OFFICIALS ARE

TAKING PLACE ON THIS SUBJECT. DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT. KISSINGER

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